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Washington, D. C. 20505

OLC #78-/94

18 SEP 1978

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Admiral Daniel J. Murphy, USN (Ret.)

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

for Policy

SUBJECT:

Security Clearances for Congressional Staff

- 1. I have your memo of 5 September on security clearances for Congressional staff. I appreciate the initiative. I am anxious to proceed in the general directions you suggest and will do so.
- 2. At the same time, we will be knocking our head against a tree if we attempt to curtail these relatively modest numbers of Congressional staff clearances while continually increasing clearances in the Executive Branch (I have requests pending on my desk for many thousands of additional clearances within DoD). As our overall review of security procedures proceeds, I hope, and anticipate, that it will include appropriate steps for sizeable reductions in codeword clearances throughout the Executive Branch. I'd be grateful, however, if you would anticipate such action by initiating reviews within DoD to reduce the number of clearances.

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

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The Director of Central Intelligence

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Admiral Daniel J. Murphy Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Department of Defense Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Admiral Murphy:

As you know, we are now engaged in the process of implementing the new Guidelines and Procedures for the issuance of compartmented clearances to the Legislative Branch. The suggestions contained in your 5 September 1978 memorandum on this subject certainly merit serious consideration, and I have brought them to the attention of my Legislative Counsel, Frederick P. Hitz.

Your support on this important matter is appreciated. I expect that our staffs will be consulting one another soon after Congress adjourns.

Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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POLICY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Security Clearances for Congressional Staff

Our review of security clearances granted to Congressional staffers indicates that there are presently 431 staffers, including GAO, who have compartmented security clearances recognized by DoD. These all have collateral Top Secret clearances. In addition, there are 591 staffers, including the Library of Congress and Congressional Budget Office, who have Top Secret or Secret clearances recognized by the Department. We believe these burgeoning numbers require some follow-on steps to your letter of July 21, 1978, to Speaker O'Neill and the guidelines for the issuance of compartmented procedures that accompanied the letter.

I recommend that a small interagency group, perhaps in the SCC structure, be convened to discuss follow-on measures. We think a quota system under which each Congressional committee whose jurisdiction is directly relevant to intelligence would have an assigned number of clearances should be explored. We doubt that the Congress will legislate such a system, but we believe there might be acquiescence in a system proposed by the Executive Branch if properly presented and negotiated with the leadership. We also think additional avenues should be explored: restricting the number of committees which may request and/or store intelligence; application of the disclosure provisions of the intelligence committees' resolutions to Congress as a whole; and restricting the dissemination of intelligence beyond the committees authorized to receive it.

I believe it would be useful to do the necessary groundwork for changes in the current system during the coming Congressional adjournment.

Daniel J. Murphy Admiral, USN (Ret)

Deputy

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| 2. | | | | is a reply to Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Daniel Murphy's memorandum on Congressional staff security clearances. Your letter acknowledges Murphy's memorandum, indicates that his support of the new Guideling on compartmented clearances. | | |
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